Amendments to the Specification:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b) kindly amend the specification as follows. Amendments to the specification are made by presenting replacement paragraphs or sections marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended paragraph or section are being shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlined (for added matter).

Please amend the paragraph on page 3, lines 19-31 to the following:

Figure 1 shows a side view of the prior art mounting of an unloaded chain guide (1) at ambient temperature through bolt slots (2), (3), and (4) in the chain guide using bolt holes (5), (6), and (7). For the purpose of this illustration, the shafts (5'), (6'), and (7') of the mounting bolts are assumed to have the same diameter as their respective bolt holes. As shown in Figure 2A, when the chain guide (1') deforms by flattening, lengthening, and expanding upon loading and heating to operating temperature, the oblong bolt slots (2'), (3'), and (4') deform. The distances between the bolt slots increase slightly as a result of the deformation, while the bolt holes (5), (6), and (7) and shafts ~~(5), (6), and (7)~~ (5'), (6'), and (7') remain at the same positions. Bolt slots (2') and (3') are oblong and larger than their bolt holes (5) and (6) and shafts ~~(5) and (6)~~ (5') and (6'), so that at operating temperature, the bolt shafts still have clearance from the bolt slots to the left and the right. The contact vectors (8), (9), and (10) for the three bolt slots are primarily in the vertical direction under a vertical load from the contacting chain. This mounting produces a beam-loaded condition.

On page 7, after line 2, please add the following paragraph:

Fig. 11 shows a bolt for use in an embodiment of the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph on page 7, line 22 to page 8, line 8 to the following:

The following are terms and concepts relating to the present invention. Beam-loaded describes a structure where external forces produce equally both tensile and compressive stresses. Arch-loaded describes a structure where external forces produce primarily compressive stresses. ~~A~~ Referring to Figure 11, a bolt or mounting bolt (70), the two terms being used

interchangeably herein, preferably includes a bolt threaded section (71), a bolt shaft (72), and a bolt head (73), and is the part which mounts a chain guide to a mounting surface. A bolt threaded section (71) is the threaded part of the bolt, which screws into the bolt hole when the chain guide is mounted. A bolt shaft (72) is the part of the bolt, which extends from the mounting surface and laterally contacts the bolt slot when the chain guide is mounted to the mounting surface by the bolt. A bolt hole, typically drilled into the engine housing, is a threaded hole into which a mounting bolt is screwed. A bolt slot is a hole in a chain guide, through which a mounting bolt is placed. A contact vector is defined as the point at which the bolt slot contacts the mounted bolt shaft in the direction normal to the surface of the bolt slot at this point. Operating temperature is the temperature of the chain guide when the engine is running. Operating conditions are the conditions where the chain guide is mounted, loaded, and at operating temperature.

Please amend the paragraph on page 8, lines 15-26 to the following:

One embodiment of the present invention, where the chain guide (21) is mounted through bolt slots (22), (23), (24) using bolt holes (25), (26), (27) moved closer together than in the prior art, is shown unloaded at ambient temperature in Figure 4. In this example, the mounting surface (28) has three bolt holes, and the chain guide has three bolt slots, but the invention is also applicable to a surface and chain guide with two or more than three bolt holes and bolt slots. When the chain guide (21') is loaded and heated to operating temperatures, as shown in Figure 5A, the bolt slots (22'), (23'), (24') move farther apart from each other. The bolt shafts ~~(25), (26), and (27)~~ (25'), (26'), and (27') are flush with the sides of the bolt slots (22'), (23'), and (24') at operating conditions. The contact vectors (28), (29), and (30) for the three bolt slots are primarily in the horizontal direction under a vertical load from the contacting chain. This produces an arch-loaded condition, where the chain guide experiences primarily compressive stresses.

Please amend the paragraph on page 8, line 27 to page 9, line 6 to the following:

In the present invention, the distance between nearest edges of the bolt shafts is always equal to or smaller than the distance between nearest edges of the bolt slots at operating conditions. Figures 5B and 5C show the bolt slots and the bolt holes of Figure 5A under operating conditions with the body of the chain guide not shown, so that the relevant distances can be more easily seen. Figure 5B shows the distances between bolt shafts, and Figure 5C

shows the distances between bolt slots. At operating conditions, the distance (31) between the nearest edges of bolt ~~hole (25)~~ shaft (25') and bolt ~~hole (27)~~ shaft (27') is equal to or slightly smaller than the distance (33) between the nearest edges of bolt slot (22') and bolt slot (24'), and the distance (32) between bolt ~~hole (26)~~ shaft (26') and bolt ~~hole (27)~~ shaft (27') is equal to or slightly smaller than the distance (34) between bolt slot (23') and bolt slot (24').

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, line 26 to page 10, line 10 to the following:

In another embodiment of the present invention, shown in Figure 7, a chain guide (41) with bolt slots (42) and (43) is designed for mounting to a given arrangement of bolt holes (44) and (45) at ambient temperature. In this example, the mounting surface has two bolt holes, and the chain guide has two bolt slots, but the invention is also applicable to a surface and chain guide with three or more bolt holes and bolt slots. The chain guide design is loaded and heated to its operating temperature, which causes the chain guide to expand, lengthen, and flatten, moving the bolt slots farther apart from each other. The distance between the bolt slots is determined at these conditions. The bolt slot configuration is subsequently modified as necessary so that it meets the conditions that at ambient temperature the chain guide can be mounted to the bolt hole configuration with bolts through its bolt slots ~~at ambient temperature~~ (42) and (43). The bolt slots (42') and (43') of the loaded chain guide (41') become flush with the bolt shafts ~~(44) and (45)~~ (44') and (45') at the sides rather than the top under operating conditions, as in Figure 8A. The bolt shafts and bolt slots form horizontal contact vectors (46) and (47) with the given bolt holes (44) and (45). This arch-loaded design will have a similar stress profile to the previous embodiment, shown in Figure 6.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 11-16 to the following:

Figures 8B and 8C show the bolt slots and the bolt holes of Figure 8A with the body of the chain guide not shown, so that the relevant distances can be more easily seen. Figure 8B shows the distances between bolt shafts, and Figure 8C shows the distances between bolt slots. At operating conditions, the distance (48) between the nearest edges of bolt ~~hole (44)~~ shaft (44') and bolt ~~hole (45)~~ shaft (44') is equal to or slightly smaller than the distance (49) between the nearest edges of bolt slot (42') and bolt slot (43').

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, line 17 to page 11, line 3 to the following:

In yet another embodiment of the invention, shown in Figure 9, bolt shafts (51) and (52) are enlarged for mounting a given chain guide (55) with bolt slots (56), (57), and (58) at ambient temperature with given bolt holes (59), (60), and (61). In this example, the mounting surface has three bolt holes, and the chain guide has three bolt slots, but the invention is also applicable to a surface and chain guide with two or more than three bolt holes and bolt slots. The bolt shafts (51) and (52) have a larger diameter than their bolt threaded sections (59) and (60) for two of the three mounting bolts. Bolt hole (61) and bolt shaft ~~(61)~~ (61') have the same diameter for this illustration. Use of prior art bolts with bolt shafts of the same diameter as the bolt holes gives a beam-loaded chain guide at operating conditions, shown previously in Figure 2. In this embodiment of the invention, enlarging the bolt shaft for the two bolts in the oblong bolt slots achieves the same effect as moving the bolt holes closer together. When the chain guide (55') is loaded and heated to operating temperature, as shown in Figure 10A, the bolt shafts (51), (52), and ~~(61)~~ (61') contact the bolt slots (56'), (57'), and (58') at the sides to achieve an arch-loaded condition. The bolt slots (56'), (57'), and (58') of the mounted chain guide (55') become laterally flush with the bolt shafts (51), (52), and ~~(61)~~ (61') to create horizontal contact vectors (62), (63), and (64). This arch-loaded design is achieved without changing the chain guide or the bolt holes and will have a similar stress profile to the previous embodiments, as shown in Figure 6.

Please amend the paragraph on page 11, lines 4-12 to the following:

Figures 10B and 10C show the bolt slots and the bolt holes of Figure 10A under operating conditions with the body of the chain guide not shown, so that the relevant distances (66), (67), (68), and (69) can be more easily seen. Figure 10B shows the distances between bolt shafts, and Figure 10C shows the distances between bolt slots. At operating conditions, the distance (66) between the nearest edges of bolt shaft (52) and bolt shaft ~~(61)~~ (61') is equal to or slightly smaller than the distance (68) between the nearest edges of bolt slot (57') and bolt slot (58'), and the distance (67) between bolt shaft (51) and bolt shaft ~~(61)~~ (61') is equal to or slightly smaller than the distance (69) between bolt slot (56') and bolt slot (58').